

Downward Revision Is Bound to Come to Baseball Salaries

SALARIES DOOMED IF PRESENT PEACE PLANS GO THROUGH

MANAGERS WHO WILL END BASEBALL WAR

The committees appointed to represent the baseball leagues at the big peace conference to be held today in New York are: American League—B. B. Johnson, president; Charles A. Comiskey, Chicago; Col. Jacob Ruppert, New York; Benjamin Minor, Washington; Joseph Lannin, Boston. National League—John K. Tener, president; August Hermann, Cincinnati; Barney Dreyfuss, Pittsburgh; Harry Hempstead, New York; James Gaffney, Boston. Federal League—James A. Gilmore, president; Charles Weeghman, Chicago; George S. Ward, Brooklyn; Harry Sinclair, Newark, N. J.; Ed Gwinn, of Pittsburgh, or Hanlon, of Baltimore. International League—Ed G. Barrow, president; John Farrell, secretary of the National Association; other member not yet selected.

By KIRK C. MILLER.

Should this peace project which has taken the baseball universe by storm be consummated according to the vague plans which have been only hinted at by the men who are supposed to know, there is going to be a general movement toward downward revision. Briefly—baseball salaries are going to be reduced in a manner which will startle some of the ball players who have been sailing along in that high strata of prosperity figuring that baseball owes them a living, and that the game cannot thrive without them.

Present plans call for the merging of the personnel of three baseball leagues into two and besides the distribution of players to their own satisfaction and to that of the clubs' welfare, the matter of salary must likewise be suited to all parties. This can be accomplished in but one way, if the remarks of President James Gilmore are to be taken seriously. Gilmore has said that all Federal League players must be taken care of which means that their present contracts must be fulfilled. Many of them will no doubt be shunted back to the minors, but the amounts called for by their contracts can not be accommodated by the minors so the deficit will have to be made up by the present owners.

SCALE OF WAGES TO DECREASE.

As these contracts expire, the scale of baseball wages will be seen to decrease until a healthy standard of compensation can be established. This is one of the most potent effects which the proposed peace pact will have on the game, and when the matter of satisfactory salaries is adjusted, the game will begin to flourish from a sporting standpoint. Satisfied players play the best ball; they play winning ball, and the public goes to see clubs perform which are at or near the top.

Many have overlooked during the riot of peace talk that another element than the magnates and players has to be satisfied in this baseball business. It is the public.

One fact seems to assert itself more strongly than many others in the present crisis: the Federals are not going to stand to lose anything now. It seems that all conciliatory measures have got to be granted by organized baseball if calm is to be brought about. The Federals are not going to surrender their holdings now without proper reimbursement is made, even though they are about ready to step out of the game as a league. Each individual owner, big and little, is to be satisfied, says Gilmore, and he adds that this goes for the players and umpires as well.

The faculty of feeling the newspaper men is well demonstrated by a flash which comes from New York today which rumors that John K. Tener, president of the National League, has been named as president of the National League. Many of the club owners in the National League, it is reported, are displeased with the manner in which Tener handled the announcement of peace negotiations between organized baseball and the Federals.

When the first intimation came that peace was about to reign, reporters asked Tener for a verification. He denied the story, and later when the official announcement came from the American League meeting in Chicago, Tener backed down on his denial.

Many of the baseball writers demand an explanation of these tactics from the National League head, and his only answer was that he "did not know the ways of newspaper men." More experienced National League magnates know well the support the press can give them in whatever course they undertake, and figuring that Tener is in bad, they are said to be ready to disown the former governor of Pennsylvania as their leader.

An earlier wire from New York places Gilmore in a similar light to that of Tener. Gilmore has played on both sides of the fence during the recent unpleasantness, and this has not worked to his popularity with the men who are expected to gather reliable information for the public. His worst offense occurred when he tried to protect a confidence in denying that Barney Dreyfuss was in Chicago on a mission of peace.

But one fact makes the sale of Catcher Agnew, of the Browns, to the Red Sox.

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BASEBALL CHRISTMAS CAROL



Gilmore to Become President of Giants

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—When the baseball peace pact has been properly signed by all hands, one of the first announcements will be the sale of the Giants to James A. Gilmore, president of the Federal League, and Harry F. Sinclair, the present owner of the New Yorks, according to a report in circulation here today. Gilmore will succeed Harry N. Hempstead as president of the local National League club.

A prominent baseball magnate is authority for this statement. And the Federal League are not going to pay \$1,000,000 for the local club, either. It is said that Hempstead has already agreed to the price offered by Sinclair and Gilmore.

When Gilmore was asked about the matter, he only smiled. He said that he was not in position right now to state just what would become of him when baseball matters had been straightened out.

"I can't tell what will become of me,"

Manager Clark Griffith Is Now in New York

Clark Griffith is in New York to be as close to the peace negotiations as possible and possibly to bring to a head the rumored trade in which Chick Gandil, Fritz Maisel, Franklin Baker, and two St. Louis players might figure. Griffith left Chicago with the peace envoys yesterday instead of returning to Washington or remaining in the West to dicker with Western magnates.

Former White Sox Pilot With Pirates

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 17.—President Barney Dreyfuss, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, today confirmed the announcement that his new manager will be James J. Callahan. He has been engaged on a two-year contract to take full charge of the team. Mr. Dreyfuss said that the Los Angeles club has agreed to give up the ex-White Sox manager for a money consideration and a player, the latter to be named later. Callahan had bought a fourth interest in the California club and was to have managed it and played in the outfield next season. Callahan was born at Fitchburg, Mass., March 18, 1874, and began his professional career as a pitcher with Northampton in 1892.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 17.—The announcement that James J. Callahan had been chosen manager of the Pittsburgh National League Club surprised baseball men here, who had supposed that Callahan would take charge of the Los Angeles Pacific Coast League team in 1916 as successor to Frank Dillon.

Callahan, president of the Los Angeles club, said he had released Callahan so that he might accept the Pittsburgh position.

Callahan was reported to have purchased an interest in the Los Angeles club, but what disposition is now to be made of this stock was a matter of speculation last night.

"GET TOGETHER" IS PLANNED FOR TODAY

American, National, and Federal League Magnates Gather Under Flag of Truce.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Organized baseball and the Federal League today are expected to cease the baseball warfare which began two years ago.

The magnates may only look around and then go back to the dug-outs temporarily, depending on what transpires in their armed truce, but the belief around headquarters at the Waldorf today was that ultimate peace is assured.

The American League delegation, headed by President Ban Johnson, was due to arrive this morning and dash to the Waldorf for a meeting with the National League magnates and the Federal League. The National League was slated to hold a meeting before the arrival of the Johnson clan and name a peace committee. Each unit in the three-cornered struggle was to be represented not by its club owning membership, but by a committee authorized to approve or reject terms of peace.

The question of "what will become of the players" was much mooted today by inquisitive parties as to the nature of the peace pact.

One of the most important reports today before the American League owners arrived concerned the sale of the Cardinals to Phil Ball, owner of the St. Louis Feds. Ball's representatives were said to have tentatively accepted Britton's demand for \$500,000 for the Cardinals. Should Ball buy into the Cardinals, however, it was learned, President Heiges, of the Browns, also will have to donate to the cause of peace on the ground that his franchise is being relieved of a heavy drain in the removal of the Cardinals.

In Pittsburgh, it was understood, the International League would take the rebels' franchise and operate a club in Forbes' Field to alternate with the Pirates.

Charlie Weeghman was the strongest bidder for the Cubs today, but Charlie Comiskey, of the White Sox, was expected to do his part in caring for the "Wholes" war-time contracts and equalizing the expense of peace.

Trade talk diminished to a whisper, and then died out as peace reports became more definite. To date no manager has admitted he is dickering for another club's men.

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Stopped the Runs.

First War Fan—What are the Russians doing?
Second War Fan—Well, they put the czar in the box and shifted the Grand Duke to right field.—Judge.

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